

BIG LAND HOLDINGS BAR RAILROAD WORK

President Farrell of O-W. R. & N. Co. Offers This as an Excuse for Delay of Extension of Oregon & Eastern Into Harney Valley. One Concern Credited With Cause of Delay

The following was taken from a recent issue of the Portland Journal. It was preceded a day or two before by an announcement that owing to the war in Europe and other disturbing elements making their influence felt more or less, nothing would be done for the present towards extending the Oregon & Eastern west from Riverton. Later the following appeared:

Gigantic land holdings of hundreds of thousands of acres of choice land are a bar to railroad progress and construction in Oregon.

The Pacific Livestock company seeks to dominate central Oregon, to retard settlement and thereby prevent railroad construction.

Other large land owners, like William Hanley and the H. W. Corbett estate, are willing to subdivide and sell land to settlers and aid in development.

These declarations are contained in a letter addressed by J. D. Farrell, of the O. W. R. & N. Co., to the state land board, which is now on file at Salem.

Mr. Farrell was explaining that the railroad is not interested in the suit to oust the Pacific Live Stock company from lands alleged to have been secured from the state through fraud, but is citing for the guidance of the board the situation that is confronting the state in its endeavors to settle the country and secure the highest possible development.

Mr. Farrell points out that the construction of the Oregon Eastern line westward from Ontario—completed as far as Riverton—cannot be built farther west because the directors of the Union Pacific system are reluctant to attempt to finance the project so long as the lands are held in such large blocks by individuals who refuse to subdivide them for sale at reasonable prices to actual settlers.

Mr. Farrell states in his letter: "In considering the railroad

development to and in Central Oregon, we are confronted with the vital condition that a limited number of corporations and individuals owned and controlled several hundred thousand acres of the most desirable land in that section of the state.

"Having previously surveyed and definitely located a main line westerly from Ontario to Odell, Oregon, together with numerous branches, all calculated efficiently to develop and serve the adjacent territory, and having previously expended several millions of dollars in actual construction and equipment of the eastern

division of the survey—a considerable mileage of which is in the Malheur canyon almost entirely destitute of local traffic—and contemplating the expenditure of many more millions necessary to advance construction along the system of surveys referred to, the situation was comprehensively presented to the chairman of the board of directors with a view to securing the funds required to continue the work, it being manifest no considerable settlement was possible if these large holdings were held intact.

"As a consequence the executive was reluctant to undertake to secure the necessary funds until the land owners agree to subdivide and offer for sale at reasonable prices to actual settlers a considerable portion of their holdings."

Mr. Farrell then states that he conferred with Messrs. Corbett and William Hanley, who assured him that their holdings would be subdivided and offered for sale to actual settlers. The same assurance, however, was not given by the Pacific Live Stock company, which is the third of the greater landholders of the central Oregon country.

Describing his interview with the chiefs of this company when he consulted them regarding the proposition, Mr. Farrell says in

his letter:

"June 20, 1912, accompanied by R. B. Miller, traffic manager of this company, I called at the office of the Pacific Live Stock company in San Francisco, Cal., and there met a gentleman who purported to speak for that company, whose name I understood to be Mr. Nicol. I informed him that before proceeding further with our construction we desired to ascertain whether their land would be available in small tracts to actual settlers on fair prices and terms, and asked him to state what their policy would be in that regard. He replied: 'We have no policy.' I then asked him if the contingency of railroad development, the effect upon their property and the attitude they would assume in the premises had not come up for discussion at any time. He replied very firmly, 'It has not,' and added, 'We acquired our holdings for range purposes, have always so used them and desire to continue to do so,' and further added in general terms that the proposed railroad construction would not inure to their benefit but on the other hand, would substantially damage them.

"A map on one of the walls of the office in which the conference was had, indicated certain areas in distinctive colors. Referring to it, I inquired if it represented their holdings. He replied, 'A part of them.' I then remarked, 'I observe a large number of small detached parcels,' and asked, 'Would you not be willing to make these parcels available to settlers?'

"He replied in the negative, I said that in the light of what he had stated as to the policy of their company I could understand why he might be unwilling to subdivide the solid areas, but I could not understand why the smaller parcels should not be sold. He responded that these detached areas were the most valuable of their holdings. I asked him the reason and he frankly replied: 'They embrace the water holes and the meadow lands.'

"I was astounded by the boldness of the confession and remarked, 'Well as far as your interests are concerned there is no encouragement to us to build a railroad in that territory,' and this conclusion he affirmed.

"As we were leaving the office he said: 'If you want to consider the purchase of all our holdings we might be willing to discuss it.' I told him with considerable emphasis that at no time had we considered or contemplated the purchase of any part of their holdings and that we were interested only in having them available to settlers."

Mr. Farrell introduces his letter to the land board with a quotation from a letter filed with former Governor West December 14, 1914, pertaining to the litigation between the state and the Pacific Live Stock company. This statement, signed by Alex C. Shaw as one of the attorneys for the company, cited:

"That the said C. B. McConnell is further actuated by the fact that he is employed by the O-W. R. & N. company or persons connected therewith in his desire to force the Pacific Live Stock company to sell to them the lands which it has held for years before the railroad reached Harney Valley, so that it will be deprived of the opportunity to make the profit which it is entitled to make out of them."

"In support of our contention as to Mr. McConnell we state: That we are credibly informed that he has some alliance with, employment by or financial support from the Harriman railroad system. Two representatives of the O. W. R. & N. company called upon the Pacific Live Stock company some time ago and sought to purchase the lands in Harney valley. The railroad is now building a road through eastern Oregon which will ultimately go through the property. The company and its predecessors have held the property for upward of 30 years, paid the taxes on it and operated it without profit even on its actual cost. Having waited all these years and developed the country sufficiently to justify a railroad, they feel that they should reap whatever advance in price will accrue to it when the railroad is constructed and do not feel that people con-

GRAND JURY MAKES REPORT, DISCHARGED

In Session Four Days and Returned into Court Five True Bills of Indictment One Not True Bill. Finds County Hospital Sanitary and Recommend Improvements on High School

To the Hon. Dalton Biggs, Circuit Judge of Ninth Judicial District for Harney County, Oregon:

We, the Grand Jury, beg to submit to you our final report: We have been in session four days; we have examined all criminal complaints brought before us; have returned into court five true bills and one not a true bill of indictment.

1. The County Hospital—We find that it is in a very sanitary condition.

2. The County High School—The back porch of the old school house should have a new floor and toilets be put and kept in a more sanitary condition, and the roof should be repaired on the old public school house; the other high school building is in a good condition except one toilet which is blown over and should be set up and put in good condition.

3. The County Jail—We find the jail needs to be kept more sanitary in every way, also needs more bed clothing.

4. The County Records of the various offices we find to be well kept. We wish to thank the Court and Bailiff and other officers for their courteous attention extended to us. We submit this, our final report, and respectfully ask to be dismissed.

FRED HAINES,
Foreman.

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suit against the livestock company, nor had any funds been supplied for the gathering of evidence against the company. The fact that the board was furnished this information at all is explained by Mr. Farrell by the statement that Mr. McConnell had told him of the hearing on the suit set for March 18 and that the livestock company had made the previous relations between himself and the railroad company a basis for the inference that the railroad is the acting factor in the suit.

How to Keep a Calf From Having Horns.

The following is taken from the current issue of the Farm and Fireside:

"Horns are useful to cattle when they had to fight for their existence, but domestic cattle do not need them. Like a man carrying a weapon, the creature, with horns is likely to be uppish and contentious. Hence, de-horning should be the universal rule, unless the cattle are intended for show purposes. The time to operate is when the calf is young, and the thing to use is caustic potash. Moisten the end of a stick of the caustic and rub it on the 'button' which has the intention of becoming a horn. Clip off the hair first. Care should be taken not to put on so much of the caustic as to cause it to flow off the button upon the skin. If properly used—and the operation requires no great skill—no horn will develop."

Have your picture taken at the Sayer Studio.

Vocational Training for The Public Schools

Closer relations between home and school, industrial and vocational training in the public school, elimination of politics from school affairs and the extension of voting privileges on school matters to all registered voters, are four measures heartily supported by the Oregon Congress of Mothers and the State Parent-Teachers Association. As a means of creating interest in these matters and strengthening public sentiment in favor of them, as well as making effective the means of carrying out the policies, the associations are urging each local parent-teacher association in the state to ask all candidates for positions on the school board the following questions:

Do you consider parent-teacher associations of value to schools and communities?

Do you favor industrial and vocational training in the public schools?

Do you believe in the elimination of politics in the hiring of teachers and superintendents?

Do you believe teachers should be hired on merit alone?

Do you believe it is the duty of the trustee to manage the financial business of the school district and hire efficient school people to manage the educational affairs of the district, unhampered by the trustee or school board?

Are you in favor of a law for the extension of the franchise on school questions to all registered voters?

Nothing so Good for a Cold or Cough.

When you have a cold you want the best medicine obtainable so as to get rid of it with the least possible delay. There are many who consider Chamberlain's Cough Remedy unsurpassed. Mrs. J. Boroff, Elida, Ohio, says, "Every since my daughter Ruth was cured of a severe cold and cough by Chamberlain's Cough Remedy two years ago, I have felt kindly disposed toward the manufacturers of that preparation. I know of nothing so quick to relieve a cough or cure a cold." For sale by all dealers.

Sumpter Valley Railway Co.

Arrival and Departure Of Trains

Departs	No. 2, Prairie	10:15 A. M.
	Sumpter	2:35 P. M.
Arrives	Baker	4:00 P. M.

Departs	No. 1, Baker	8:30 A. M.
	Sumpter	10:05 A. M.
Arrives	Prairie	2:10 P. M.

No. 1 Makes good connection with O-W. R. & N. Co. No. 4 (Fast Mail) leaving Portland 6:30 P. M., arriving at Baker 7:55 A. M. and No. 17 from east arriving Baker 6:50 A. M.

No. 2 connects with No. 5 (Fast Mail) arriving at Baker 7:55 P. M. which picks up Pullman at Baker, arriving at Portland 7:00 A. M. Also with No. 18 at 10:45 P. M. for points East.

RABBITS TO FOLLOW COYOTES IS THE BELIEF

Governor Withycombe Urges Central Oregon to Take Advantage of the New Law Which Provides for the Co-operation of State Funds Spent Under Supervision of Experts

That the extermination of coyotes, which is expected to result from the increased bounty upon them authorized by the last legislature, may not prove an unmixed blessing, is the opinion of Governor Withycombe, says the Salem Statesman. He points out that as the coyotes go the rabbits may be expected to increase, for coyotes are probably the most efficient rabbit destroyers in existence.

The Governor's attention has been especially directed to this phase of Eastern Oregon's agricultural problems, with whose general features he has always been familiar, by the many letters relative to the rabies epidemic recently received at his office. The rabies situation was the factor which induced the legislature to increase the coyote bounty from \$1.50 to \$3.00.

"Increasing the bounty was a most excellent step," said the Governor yesterday. "A real emergency seemed to exist, and the legislature simply gave the eastern part of the state a square deal. I heartily favored the action, and still believe it extremely wise. But it is apparent that as the coyotes go the rabbits probably will increase, and everyone familiar with the situation knows that rabbits are a serious pest."

"Already Harney County has taken the drastic step of offering a 5 cent bounty of jack rabbits. My desire at this time is to urge the Central and Eastern Oregon counties to take full advantage of the bill passed last month which provides for combatting the rabbit pest. It will be especially valuable and needed now."

Governor Withycombe referred to the bill introduced by representative Forbes of Crook county, which appropriates \$3,000 to be used in exterminating rabbits. It is provided that all

counties which will put up \$250 will receive an equal donation from the State, the \$500 to be spent under the supervision of experts working under the Oregon Agricultural College. It is understood that with scientific management, this amount, expended chiefly for poisoning, may be expected practically to clean out rabbits in a large territory, and if adjoining counties will cooperate practical elimination of the pest may be expected, without endangering other stock.

"This rabbit matter perhaps seems trivial to people in Western Oregon," the Governor continued, "but I am intimately familiar with the eastern districts and I know just how important it is. In some parts extermination of the rabbit pest is absolutely essential to insure profitable agricultural development. Now that the State has evidenced its willingness to assist financially, I hope that the counties will show a desire to cooperate. Certainly it would be the wisest kind of investment if several of them take advantage of the bill immediately upon its becoming effective, early in May. With the cooperative fund, they can at least work out the most effective methods and accomplish a big forward step."

Rumatic Pains Relieved.

Why suffer from rheumatism when relief may be had at so small a cost? Mrs. Elmer Hatch Peru, Ind., writes, "I have been subject to attacks of Rheumatism for years. Chamberlain's Liniment always relieved me immediately, and I take pleasure in recommending it to others." 25 and 50 cent bottles. For sale by all dealers.

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